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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/807,450	03/24/2004	Tadayoshi Nakano	009683-501	3365
21839	7590	05/23/2006		EXAMINER
BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC (INCLUDING BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS) POST OFFICE BOX 1404 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404			NGUYEN, LINH V	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2819	

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/807,450	NAKANO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Linh V. Nguyen	2819	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 2-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 2,3 and 5-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on 5/12/06. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 2 – 5 have been amended. Claims 2 – 5 have been amended. Claims 2 – 17 are pending on this office action.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to amended claim 4 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States..

4. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Keen et al. U.S. patent No. 5,254,992.

Fig. 1 of Keen et al. discloses semiconductor integrated circuit comprising: a first terminal (INPUT) receiving an external power supply voltage (Col. 4 lines 2 – 7) provided from out side a voltage generating circuit (2, 1) lowering (+5V, -5V) said external power supply voltage (INPUT) and generating an internal voltage (output of load cell 1; See Col. 3 lines 65 – 68), an internal circuit (16, 22, 26) using said internal voltage (output voltage of load cell 1); an A/D conversion circuit (30) converting said

internal voltage (output of load cell 1) from an analog value to a digital value (30) so as to output a digital signal (output signal line from 30 to 8) to the outside (outside of 30); a second terminal (output terminal of 30) providing said digital signal to the outside (outside of 30), a third terminal for input of an analog voltage (input terminal of 30); and a selector (28) selecting and providing one of said internal voltage and said analog voltage to said A/D conversion circuit (30).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 2, 3, and 5 – 17 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
7. With respect to claims 2 and 5, in addition to other elements in each respective claim, the prior art does not teach a circuit comprising: said voltage generating circuit includes a reference voltage generating circuit generating a reference voltage of the operation power supply voltage, a differential amplifying circuit receiving said operation power supply voltage and said reference voltage at complementary two inputs, and a voltage conversion circuit converting said external power supply voltage in response to an output of said differential amplifying circuit so as to output said operation power supply voltage.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linh Van Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1810. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 – 5:00 Monday-Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Rexford Barnie can be reached at (571) 272-7492. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are

Art Unit: 2819

(571-273-8300) for regular communications and (571-273-8300) for After Final
communications.

5/19/06

Linh Van Nguyen

Art Unit 2819

LINH NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linh Van Nguyen".